

Appln. No.: 10/015,309
Amdt. Dated August 16, 2005
Reply to Office Action dated July 12, 2005

Remarks/Arguments

Reconsideration of this application is requested.

Claims 1-11, 17-20, 22 and 24 have been rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Alden, U.S. Patent Application publication 2003/0072469.

The Examiner stated the following in page 2 of the July 12, 2005 Final Rejection: *"As per claim 1, Alden discloses a mail monitoring system, said system comprises: a plurality of mailers' units that stores unique information contained in a postal indicia affixed to mail (paragraph 7, Fig's. [sic] 3-9); a plurality of receptacles that reads and stores the unique information contained in the postal indicia before the mail enters the interior of the receptacle (paragraph 7, Fig's. [sic] 3-9);"*

Paragraph 7 of Alden reads as follows:

"[0007] FIG. 2 prior art is a flowchart describing the typical office hardcopy mail stream in the US."

Paragraph 16 of Alden reads as follows:

"[0016] FIG. 2 prior art is a flowchart describing the typical office hardcopy mail stream in the US. Similarly to FIG. 1, a vast number of potential mail senders exist in the modern worldwide postal system. Some mail sender's [sic] are known to the mail recipient many other's [sic] are unknown. Under the present system, the mail receiver has no control whatsoever as to which mail he will receive or not receive. Thus a mail recipient 39 must be prepared to deal with mail from anyone including terrorists which may arrive any day at his office mail box 38 courtesy of his office mail distribution system 37."

Alden does not disclose a postal indicia. In fact, in Fig. 9, Alden shows what appears to be a cancelled 34 cents U.S. postage stamp in the upper right hand side of the image of envelope 175. Thus, Alden does not disclose or anticipate a plurality of mailers' units that stores unique information contained in a postal indicia affixed to mail; a plurality of receptacles that reads and stores the unique information contained in the postal indicia before the mail enters the interior of the receptacle.

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Claims 12-16 have been rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Alden and further in view of Bobrow, et al., (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0079371).

The Examiner stated in page 5 of the July 12, 2005 Final Rejection the following:
**Bobrow et al. discloses wherein the mailer's unit includes the time and date that the postal indicia was affixed to the mail in the unique information contained in the postal indicia (paragraph 133, fig's. [sic] 2 and 4)."*

Paragraph 133 of Bobrow, et al reads as follows:

"[0133] Swipes 1114, 1116, and 1118 specify the date and time of the event. Swipes 1110, 1112, 1122, and 1124 serve to annotate the event. The address is set forth in swipes 1120, 1122, and 1124 – this information can remain part of the annotation or can be extracted by the system as described below. Note that this further information can be displayed in a hierarchical fashion, concealing details until needed. Moreover, in one embodiment of the invention, the entire announcement of FIG. 11 (or at least an additional portion thereof) is scanned and stored as an image in the database 310 (FIG. 3) in addition to the information extracted and used as an event annotation as set forth above. This approach has the advantage that additional information in the document (such as the bride's name, for example) is accessible and can be made available, if necessary, even if it is not expected to be needed at the time the key data items are extracted."

Alden discloses the following in paragraph 20:

" Fig. 6 is a flowchart describing hardcopy mail scanning performed by an office mail processing system. Many buildings use internal mailroom personnel to distribute mail through out the building, the present invention can be used at the building level as well. After the postal service 93 delivers mail to office mail processing system 95 the office mail service provides a mail scanning service (digital images of the mail are created). An intended receiver 105 is given access to the digital images via the

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intranet (Indicated with dotted line) which interconnects the 97 computer and the 105 computer. Also over the intranet, the 105 sends elections to accept or reject each mail article to the 97 computer. The office mail processing system then delivers the only the accepted mail to the 105 and discards the rejected mail. Thus the user of the office mail scanning service receives and personally handles only the mail that he wishes to and discards the unwanted mail without ever having handled it. This reduces potential for exposure to explosives, biological agents, and chemical agents distributed by terrorists."

Alden's mail processing 95 is used after the postal service delivers mail to a building so that other users of the mail scanning service receives and personally handles only the mail he or she wishes to and discards the unwanted mail without ever handling it.

In the invention claimed by Applicants in Claim 1 and those claims dependent thereon the receptacles are located at the point where the mailer enters the mail into the postal system and data is used to determine if the mailer is permitted to enter mail in the receptacle. Thus, Applicants claimed invention is able to access the likelihood that the mail containing life harming material is determined before the mail is delivered. Thus, the post may be able to remove mail from the mail stream at its entry point to the mail stream before it causes human harm and/or causes extensive property damage. Hence, neither Alden nor Bobrow taken separately or together discloses anticipates the invention claimed by Applicant.

Claim 21 has been rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Alden, and further in view of Rangan, et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No.: 2005/0034055).

Paragraph 91 of Rangan, et al reads as follows:

"[0091] In an alternative embodiment gatherer 67 may be implemented as a client application installed on a user's PC. In this embodiment, a user would not be required to supply log-in or password codes. Summarization scripts may be sent to the client software and templates may be automatically created with the appropriate scripts using log-in and password information encrypted and stored locally on the user's machine."

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Neither Alden nor Rangan, taken separately or together, disclose or anticipate a plurality of mailers' units that stores unique information contained in a postal indicia affixed to mail; a plurality of receptacles that reads and stores the unique information contained in the postal indicia before the mail enters the interior of the receptacle.

Claim 23 has been rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Alden in view of Brookner (U.S. Patent No. 6,842,742).

Brookner discloses the following in lines 27-39 of column 2:

"In accordance with the present invention, there is provided a greatly improved system providing early warning preemptive postal equipment replacement. According to the invention, it is provided that selected performance parameters of the postal equipment are monitored and compared against predetermined

operational boundaries. The monitoring gives an indication of the overall system performance. If the system performance goes outside of operational boundaries, or changes significantly, replacement can be scheduled with minimal inconvenience to the customer. Data from the old meter can then be orderly transferred to the replacement meter."

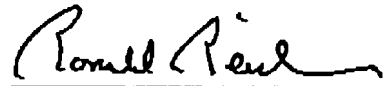
Neither Alden nor Brookner, taken separately or together, discloses or anticipates a plurality of mailers' units that stores unique information contained in a postal indicia affixed to mail; a plurality of receptacles that reads and stores the unique information contained in the postal indicia before the mail enters the interior of the receptacle.

Claims 1-24 have been provisionally rejected by the Examiner under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1 and 3-16 of copending Application No. 10/015469. A Terminal Disclaimer was filed in Application No.10/015469 on May 13, 2005 to overcome the double patenting rejection. A copy of the Terminal Disclaimer is attached hereto.

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In view of the above, claims 1-26 are patentable are patentable. If the Examiner has any questions, would he please call the undersigned at the telephone number noted below.

Respectfully submitted,



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